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La Boheme

Julian Dawson Director
Illinois State University

Peter Schuetz Stage Director

Patricia Foltz Piano

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Music Department
Illinois State University



A Chamber adaptation by Peter Schuetz
Presented by the ISU Opera Production Class

Julian Dawson, *Musical Director*
Peter Schuetz, *Stage Director*
Patricia Foltz, *Piano*

Kemp Recital Hall
Sunday and Monday Evening
March 31 and April 1, 1996
8.00 p.m.

The Opera takes place in the Latin Quarter of Paris during the mid-19th century.

ACT ONE

Scene 1: A garret, the afternoon of Christmas Eve

Scene 2: Café Momus, later that evening

Intermission

ACT TWO

Scene 1: Outside a tavern, very early on a February morning

Scene 2: A garret, a day in late March at dusk

PROGRAM NOTES

Writers Giuseppe Giacosa and Luigi Illica based their libretto on a story by Henri Murget entitled "Scènes de la vie de Bohème". Murget's 'Scenes' were based in turn on real living people.

The word 'Bohemian' was used to describe a phenomenon of Parisian and Italian life: writers, painters, composers and philosophers who led a free life unhampered by the mores of respectable society, somewhat similar to the 'hippies' of the 1960's in America.

The Opera La Bohème holds a unique place in the history of Musical Theater. Puccini's melodies have a striking emotional power and the libretto is filled with a skillful juxtaposition of smiles and tears. These qualities bring a heightened sense of reality to a simple but beautiful story of lively revels of young students soon to be stilled by the shadow of mortal illness. It is not surprising that this Opera, especially the last Act was Puccini's own favorite.

CAST

Rodolfo, a poet.....Harold Meers
Schaunard, a musician.....Anthony Barton, Jerry Myers*
Benoit, a landlord.....Joseph Greene
Mimi.....Kathryn Ward, Sandra Mazzei*
Marcello, a painter.....John Davis
Colline, a philosopher...Richard Repp, Edward Corpus*
Musetta.....Kristin White, Stephanie Gray*
Alcindoro.....John Wahl
Waitress.....Jennifer Noel
Waiter.....Kevin MacLean
Customers at Café Momus: Nicholas LaPaglia, Kristin Egan, Alison Trego.

*Indicates April 1 performance.

STAFF FOR THE PRODUCTION

Musical Director.....Julian Dawson
Stage Director.....Peter Schuetz
Pianist and Coach... ..Patricia Foltz
Assistant Stage Director.....Nicholas LaPaglia
Stage Manager.....Alison Trego
Lighting Assistants.....Heather Cawlfeld, Eileen Fransen

Special thanks to Dr. Alfonse Anderson for his assistance with this production.

ISU Voice Faculty: Alfonse Anderson, Donald Armstrong, Bonnie Pomfret, Kathleen Randles, Peter Schuetz.

This production is costumed, in part, with the assistance of the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts at the University of Illinois.